

4.0 Comments and Coordination

4.1 Agency Coordination

KDOT will serve as the lead state agency for the project. FHWA will serve as the lead Federal agency. The Cities of Lenexa, Olathe, and De Soto; Johnson County, Kansas; and the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) are also serving as planning partners during the study process. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions as required by Federal law for this project will be carried out by KDOT and FHWA. The full list of identified agencies invited to coordinate is listed in the Project Coordination Plan in **Appendix I**.

4.1.1 Initial Coordination Packet

KDOT, in cooperation with FHWA, prepared an initial coordination packet for distribution to officials and agencies at the initiation of the EA. This packet included a letter inviting the agency to coordinate on the project, a project description detailing the project and a study area map. **Appendix I** contains copies of the invitation letters sent to participating agencies, which were included in the initial coordination packet sent October 11, 2023. **Table 4-1** shows the invited Participating Agencies for the project and the date of response to the invitation. Coordination with Native American Tribes is detailed in **Section 4.3**.

Table 4-1: Participating Agencies Identified from Initial Agency Coordination

Agency Type	Agency	Date of Response
Federal Lead Agency	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	-
State Lead Agency	Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)	-
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	10/20/2023
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	No Response
Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	10/30/2023
Federal	U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	No Response
Federal	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	No Response
Federal	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Region	No Response
Federal	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	11/7/2023
Federal	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Regional Solicitor	No Response

Agency Type	Agency	Date of Response
Federal	U.S. Geological Survey	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of Commerce, Denver Regional Office	No Response
Federal	U.S. Department of Energy, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance	No Response
State	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	11/7/2023
State	Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks	No Response
State	Kansas State Historical Society	10/31/2023
State	Kansas Water Office	10/20/2023
State	Kansas Biological Survey	No Response
State	Kansas Geological Survey	No Response
State	Kansas Forest Service	No Response
State	Kansas Department of Agriculture	No Response
State	Kansas Department of Commerce	No Response
State	Kansas Corporation Commission	No Response
Local	City of De Soto	No Response
Local	City of De Soto Public Works Department	No Response
Local	City of Lenexa	No Response
Local	City of Lenexa Public Works Department	No Response
Local	City of Lenexa Parks & Recreation Department	11/9/2023
Local	City of Olathe	No Response
Local	City of Olathe Public Works Operations	10/24/2023
Local	City of Olathe Parks & Recreation Department	10/26/2023
Local	De Soto Unified School District #232	10/27/2023
Local	Shawnee Mission School District	No Response
Local	Olathe School District	No Response
Local	Blue Valley School District	No Response
Local	Eudora School District	No Response
Local	Johnson County	No Response
Local	Johnson County Appraiser	No Response
Local	Kansas Turnpike Authority	No Response
Local	Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)	No Response
State	Kansas Byways	No Response
Federal	Federal Aviation Administration	No Response
Federal	Federal Railroad Administration	No Response
Federal	Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Region 7	No Response

4.1.2 Purpose and Need and Alternatives Analysis Agency Coordination

In addition to the Initial Agency Coordination outreach, two additional opportunities were provided for agencies to comment. Letters asking for comment on the Purpose and

Need were sent on December 7, 2023, and letters for the alternatives analysis, screening, and selection were sent on April 30, 2024. The agencies contacted include those who responded to the Initial Agency Coordination and/or the Purpose and Need request and indicated a desire to participate throughout the EA process. Agency response dates regarding the Purpose and Need and alternatives analysis are found in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-2: Purpose and Need and Alternatives Analysis Agency Coordination

Agency Type	Agency	Purpose and Need Date of Response	Alternatives Analysis Date of Response
Federal	U.S. Army Corps. Of Engineers	No Response	5/7/2024
Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	12/13/2023	5/28/2024
State	Kansas Biological Survey	No Response	No Response
State	Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment	1/2/2024	5/2/2024
State	Kansas State Historical Society	No Response	5/2/2024
State	Kansas Water Office	12/18/2023	5/3/2024
Local	City of Lenexa	12/26/2023	No Response
Local	City of Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department	No Response	No Response
Local	City of Lenexa Public Works Department	No Response	No Response
Local	City of Olathe	12/18/2023	No Response
Local	City of Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	No Response	6/10/2024
Local	City of Olathe Public Works Operations	No Response	6/10/2024
Local	De Soto Unified School District #232	No Response	No Response
Local	Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)	1/12/2024	No Response

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement

4.2.1 Overview

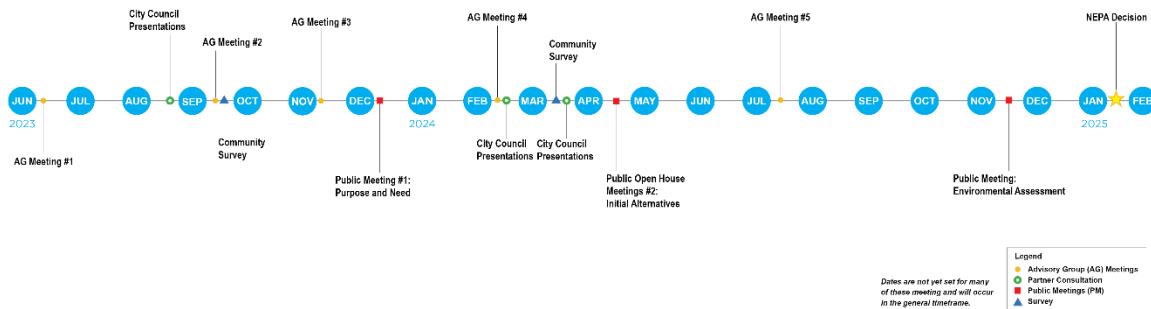
The goal of stakeholder engagement for the K-10 Capacity Improvements Project was to inform the public on the project and provide regular updates, receive feedback, and

collect and review comments about concerns regarding the improvements proposed for K-10. To accomplish the stakeholder engagement goals of the project, the project team performed the following tasks:

- Created and implemented a Community Engagement Plan (**Appendix I**);
- Developed and implemented a project website;
- Organized and conducted Advisory Group meetings;
- Provided engagement opportunities and places to comment via a project email and comment submission form on the project’s website (<https://k10.ksdot.gov/>);
- Held **three** rounds of Virtual Public Meetings with opportunities for in-person public open house meetings at Initial Alternatives and Preferred Alternative milestones;
- Sent out regular electronic project newsletters;
- Gave community presentations to organizations in **Olathe, Lenexa and De Soto** and nearby communities; and
- Conducted surveys and focus groups to understand how people see the future of K-10 and how they would use alternatives if they were implemented.

Figure 4-1 shows the public outreach events schedule for the EA.

Figure 4-1: Public Outreach Events Schedule



4.2.2 Public Meetings

As part of the ongoing NEPA process, three opportunities for the public to view project progress and to provide input on the project were provided. Public meeting 1 was held virtually and available for 30 days for participants to review and provide comments. Public meetings 1, 2, and 3 (to be held in the fall of 2024) were held in-person as well as having a virtual component for those who could not attend. All participants attending the meetings were asked to sign in through a Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA) system established for the project. Each meeting had a specific focus, which is described in the following sections. All meetings and open houses shared project information and it was posted to the project website so that participants could review during their preferred timeframe. All those that attended and signed into the in-person meetings or the Virtual Public Meetings, also signed up for the project

mailing list to receive newsletters and updates about the project. As of May 10, 2024, there are 1,753 people on the project mailing list.

4.2.2.1 *Public Meeting #1*

The first public meeting was held virtually from Wednesday, December 6, 2023 to Friday, January 5, 2024. KDOT hosted a virtual public information open house for the K-10 Capacity Improvements Project. The purpose of the meeting was to present the project overview and existing conditions, as well as gather public input on the draft Purpose and Need. The virtual public meeting was available on the project website (<https://K10.ksdot.gov/>) for a 30-day period to allow participants to review the information and provide comments at their convenience.

Responses showed this project is of great interest to the community as 459 people signed into the meeting and provided 463 comments. Several participants provided multiple comments that are individually counted. At the conclusion of the public meeting comment period, the database had amassed 1,001 stakeholders signed up to receive project updates. Stakeholders range from the Kansas City metro to Lawrence.

4.2.2.2 *Public Meeting #2*

The second public meeting took place over two dates; Tuesday April 16, 2024 at De Soto High School and Thursday April 18, 2024 at the Kansas State University Olathe Campus. Both meetings were scheduled for 5-7 p.m. The purpose of this round of open houses was to share important project updates including proposed interchange solutions and locations, recommended alternatives being considered, information on the noise study process, and upcoming project activities.

There were 69 attendees at the April 16th open house, and 106 attendees at the April 18th open house. A virtual option for this round of information launched on April 19, 2024 through May 19, 2024 and 134 people have reviewed the information. Comments were able to be left until May 19, 2024. In total, this public meeting received 36 comments.

4.2.2.3 *Public Meeting #3*

This meeting will be held in fall of 2024. This section will be updated prior to the approval of the Final EA and FONSI.

4.2.3 *Advisory Group*

An Advisory Group was created at the beginning of the EA process and consisted of 28 business, civic, and religious leaders in the Johnson and Douglas Counties that represent the community. The goal of the Advisory Group was for the project team to gain insight and feedback on the project. The Advisory Group established in the Spring 2023 was comprised of the members shown in **Table 4-3**.

Table 4-3: Advisory Group Roster

Organization	Name	Title/Role
Astra Development	Dan Jensen	Principal Industrial Broker
Cedar Creek Homeowners Association	Larry Louk	Board Member
Cedar Creek Homeowners Association	Mike Osborn	Board Member & Kaw Valley Engineer
Cedar Creek Homeowners Association	Ron Mather	Board Member & Cedar Creek Dev. Group partner
City of De Soto	Mike Brungardt	City Administrator
City of Eudora	Branden Boyd	Director of Public Works
City of Lawrence	Melissa Sieben	Director of Operations
City of Lenexa	Scott McCullough	Director of Community Development
City of Olathe	Beth Wright	Public Works Deputy Director
De Soto Chamber of Commerce	Sara Ritter	Executive Director
De Soto School District	Dr. Corey Gibson	Superintendent of De Soto School District
Douglas County	Chad Voigt	Director of Public Works
Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex	Shawn Provence	Manager
Huhtamaki	Heather Callaway	Marketing/Engagement
JC Penney Distribution Center	Jay Christensen	Senior Management, Supply Chain Engineering
JC Penney Distribution Center	Chad Sommer	Director, Supply Chain
JC Penney Distribution Center	Wick Hollingsworth	Senior Manager, Transportation North Region
Johnny's Tavern	Louie Riederer	Owner
Johnson County	Josh Powers	Business Liaison
Johnson County	Brian Pietig	Public Works Director
Johnson County Farm Bureau	Pete Goetzmann	Representative
Kansas Department of Commerce	Richard Martinez	Business Development
KSU Olathe Campus	Ben Wolfe	Dean
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce	Laura Baldwin	COO
Life Church Lenexa	Rev. Heather Van Wormer	Campus Pastor
MARC	Ron Achelpohl	Director of Transportation and Environment

Organization	Name	Title/Role
Mill Creek Farms Homeowners Association	Bill Cunningham	Primary contact for Mill Creek farms
Mill Creek Farms Homeowners Association	Mike Ivancic	President, secondary contact for Mill Creek Farms
Olathe Chamber of Commerce	Tim McKee	CEO
Olathe School District	Dr. Jim McMullen	Assistant Superintendent
Panasonic	Daneea Delisser	Communications Manager
Panasonic	Lucas Verschelsen	Supply Chain Analyst
Prime Land Co.	Clay Blair	Landowner
St. James Academy	Andy Tylicki	President
United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS)	Kristy Baughman	Director of Education and Planning
United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS)	Christina Ashie Guidry	Director of Resource Allocation

Each of the four Advisory Group meetings were held virtually. The first meeting was held in May 2023 and overviewed the project and its purpose and goals. Subsequent meetings were held August 2023 through February 2024 and covered all topics from the public meetings, as summarized in the list below. Meeting summaries and recordings for all Advisory Group meetings were posted to the project website.

- **Meeting 1:** Advisory Group purpose, project overview
- **Meeting 2:** Draft Purpose and Need, planned outreach
- **Meeting 3:** Community survey results, traffic, and land use update
- **Meeting 4:** Public Meeting #1 summary, Level 2 Toll Study results, interchange discussions
- **Meeting 5:** Summary of Public Meeting 2, community survey and present recommended alternative prior to Public Hearing

4.2.4 Community Surveys and Focus Groups

ETC Institute was contracted to conduct two community surveys. For each, a survey packet containing a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope was sent to a random sample of households in eastern Johnson and Miami Counties. Residents who received the survey were also given the option of completing it online or via a follow up phone call. The first survey was administered in November 2023 and completed by 1,051 residents. The second survey was administered in March 2024 and completed by 1,068 residents. Both surveys exceeded the goal of 800 participant responses. Complete reports with the survey results can be found in **Appendix K**.

4.2.5 Community Presentations

The project team presented to community organizations throughout the Overland Park area and region as requested. The purpose of the presentations was to provide information on the K-10 improvement options and answer questions. Members of the public and community, civic or business organizations could request a community presentation by email, submitting a comment on the project website, or by filling out the 'Request a Presentation' form at the bottom of the project website or through a member of the project team. Reminders that presentations could be requested were given at all public and advisory group meetings. Presentations included:

- Lenexa Economic Development Council – 8/8/2023
- Olathe Economic Development Council – 9/12/2023
- Olathe Morning Rotary Club – 9/14/2023
- Johnson County Commission – 11/9/2023
- Lenexa City Council – 11/14/2023, 2/27/2024
- Mill Creek Farms HOA—2/1/2024
- MARC – 7/26/2023, 3/27/24
- Olathe City Council – 8/15/2023, 2/6/2024
- De Soto City Council – 3/21/2024
- Lenexa Rotary Club – 3/22/2024

4.3 Tribal Coordination

Table 4-4: Tribal Coordination Summary

Tribe Contacted	Initial Coordination Date of Response	Purpose and Need Date of Response	Alternatives Analysis Date of Response	Draft EA Coordination Date of Response
Delaware Tribe of Indians	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Kaw Nation of Oklahoma	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Osage Nation of Oklahoma	No Response	11/28/2023	No Response	
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	No Response	11/28/2023	No Response	
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Shawnee Tribe	No Response	No Response	No Response	
Wyandotte Nation	No Response	No Response	No Response	

4.4 Public Review of the Draft EA

To be updated for the Final EA.

4.5 Comments and Responses on the Draft EA

To be updated for the Final EA.